

ensure that the rights of all are clearly defined and protected.

People like the legendary Bayard Rustin, who organized the 1947 Journey of Reconciliation which inspired the Freedom Rides of the 1960s and helped Dr. King organize the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and who was the driving force behind the 1963 March on Washington.

Other members of the LGBT community whose contributions have made enriched American culture and made our country better include the great poet Langston Hughes; Billy Strayhorn the musician and gifted composer whose 30-year collaboration with Duke Ellington gave the world some of the greatest jazz music ever; and James Baldwin, one of the towering figures in the history of American literature.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to acknowledge the achievements of just a few of the countless number of Americans who overcame prejudice and discrimination America be a more welcoming place for succeeding generations of LGBT community members.

HONORING BARBARA AND JOEL RASCOFF

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 9, 2014

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, Barbara and Joel Rascoff have been steadfast in their commitment to the New Rochelle community. The community is truly indebted to their kind and selfless service and the legacy that they are continuing to build.

As part of the Young Israel of New Rochelle Community (YINR), Barbara and Joel have chaired numerous dinners and dinner journals, and Joel has even helped document shul events by serving as a photographer. Both Barbara and Joel are known for their kind and giving nature, making newcomers feel exceedingly welcome in the New Rochelle Jewish community. Their efforts were crucial in bringing Rabbi Reuven Fink to YINR.

Throughout their involvement with YINR, Joel served as both a member of the Board of Trustees and as Vice President of Fundraising, finding the time to help lead effort to raise crucial funds for YINR, whilst working as a respected nephrologist within the community.

Barbara became deeply involved in shul fundraising herself, including as an integral part of the dedicated and passionate team that successfully worked to retire the debt from the mezzanine loan on YINR's new building. Barbara was also an important voice within the committee established to investigate the shul's expansion, and was an important member of the mechtza committee for the new sanctuary.

Together Barbara and Joel have been highly active in a variety of community projects, such as the New Rochelle Meals on Wheels Program, where Barbara continues to serve as a Vice President. Barbara has also had a life-long affiliation with AMIT, an organization that provides education and crucial social services to children in Israel. Barbara served for 22 years as a member of AMIT's board and as Chairwoman of the board of governors. AMIT works to positively impact the future of Israel,

one child at a time. It is clear both Barbara and Joel have embodied this creed, working with drive and boundless energy to impact the lives of individuals both at home and abroad.

Today, Barbara and Joel cherish their role as grandparents to their five beautiful grandchildren, and parents to their three sons and daughter-in-laws: Henry and Carina, Sammy and Lauren, and Matthew and Emily.

Their passion to help others has built lasting impressions both in New Rochelle and in Israel. Their service is an exemplary legacy, and one that has brought our community closer together. Barbara and Joel are deserving recipients of the Distinguished Leadership Award at Young Israel of New Rochelle's 47th Annual Dinner.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. VICKY HARTZLER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 9, 2014

Mrs. HARTZLER. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, May 30, 2014, I was unable to vote. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows: on rollcall No. 270 "nay" and on rollcall No. 271, "yea."

SAMMIE MOSHENBERG: AN ACTIVIST FOR JUSTICE

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 9, 2014

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my deep gratitude to Sammie Moshenberg, who is retiring as Director of the Washington Operations of the National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW).

For more than 30 years, Sammie has represented NCJW in the halls of Congress, and she has been an influential advocate for economic and social justice. It is not just that Sammie herself is a powerful force—she is—but she also represents and coordinates NCJW's network of volunteers across the country. Through that role, Sammie is able to help NCJW members not just understand the legislative process but to show how they can mobilize to affect the outcomes and push for action on critical policy debates.

If there is a fight to improve the lives of children, eliminate discrimination and promote equal opportunities, end violence, or give women more control over their lives and their futures, Sammie Moshenberg is there. She is always eager to stand up what is just and what is necessary in order to end poverty, promote justice, and help women and families succeed. She embodies the Jewish creed of Tikkun Olam—repairing the world.

Sammie first came to NCJW in 1981, first working in the communications department in the New York headquarters. She came to the Washington office in 1983, where she has represented NCJW in dealing with all three branches of government and in coalitions working on judicial nominations, civil rights, reproductive rights, and economic justice issues. Sammie received her BA from Shimer College in Illinois and a master's degree from Loyola

University in Baltimore, Maryland. She continues to use the skills she learned there and as a former magazine editor and teacher to train members of Jewish and other faith groups, students, and advocates.

Anyone who has the good fortune of knowing Sammie knows she is much more interested in empowering people to participate in critical national debates and getting the job done than taking credit for her own actions. That is why she and NCJW are so committed to their "Promote the Vote, Protect the Vote" initiative. But Sammie herself has received a great deal of recognition for her efforts. Sammie has appeared on the "Forward Fifty" list of the most influential Jewish individuals three times. She has also been named one of Women's Enews "21 Leaders for the 21st Century" and received the YWCA of the National Capital Area's Racial Justice Award, the Ruth Osborn Award from the Women's Studies Program at George Washington University, and NCJW's Hannah G. Solomon Award.

As if her work at NCJW isn't enough, Sammie is an active member of her community—fighting for housing and economic justice issues in Alexandria, Virginia where she lives and working to expand access to health care and social justice in Cape Town, South Africa, where she and her husband have a second home.

As a Jewish woman, a lifetime member of NCJW, and a Member of Congress, I have relied on Sammie for her wisdom, her knowledge of the ways of Washington, her strategic sense of pushing for progress, and her friendship.

Sammie, I am so appreciative of your leadership and your passion for justice. I know that you will continue to use your many talents to improve your community, our nation and the world.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF LESLIE ARNOLD COLLINS

HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 9, 2014

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleague, Mr. COSTA, to recognize and honor the memory of Mr. Leslie Arnold Collins. As a veteran, a community leader, and philanthropist, Mr. Collins was a true pillar of the Hanford community. His presence in our community will be greatly missed, but the example by which he lived his life will not soon be forgotten.

Les was born in Danville, Illinois, on April 25, 1922. He was the fourth child born to his parents, William Howard Collins and Mable Arnold Collins. He met his wife, Alice Smith, while visiting his mother in New Mexico and soon married her on December 3, 1949. He and his wife traveled in 1960 to Hanford, California, where they raised three children. He had five grandchildren, eleven great-grandchildren, and one great-great-grandchild on the way. Les Collins passed away peacefully in his sleep at home on June 1, 2014, at the age of 92.

Les spent his life serving his country, family and his community. Les served as a combat medic in the Pacific Theater and helped liberate the Philippines during World War II. For